the larger batch started also on the fifth day of oviposition and continued upto ninth day.

Mode of eclosion: The region of egg from where the eclosion of the nymph would take place depends on the position of the egg in that batch. Eclosion usually took place from the exposed surface and never from the suarface which remained overlapped by other eggs. During eclosion, a slit approached at one of the poles (free pole in case of an overlapped egg) apparently owing to vigorous movement of the nymph inside. As the slit widened gradually, the nymph made its appearance first by protruding the tip of its abdomen outside. With the support of its legs on the inner floor of the egg the nymph pushed itself out more and more. As soon as the hind legs came out, it took their support of the adjacent eggs to extricated itself completely. Newly emerged nymphs were very active and fed vigorously.

Appearance of first instar nymph: Newly hatched nymphs were white in colour with reddish suffusion and changed to pale brown within half an hour after their emergence. The ocellar fields were seen to be the darkest with granular reddish pigment but the ocelli were not very prominent. Although the lateral bosses were perceptible, no trace of dorsolateral bosses could be noticed. The nymphs measured *c.* 0.05 mm in length with the labium protruded anteriorly. On the seventh day of the eclosion, rudiments of bosses were visible on the dorsolateral surface of body and the ocelli became conspicuous in the form of elevated domes.

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22. BUTTERFLIES OF NEW DELHI (PAPILIONOIDEA)

I would like to make a few comments on Roger Ashton's paper under the above title (1972, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 69*:502-509).

Danaus chrysippus (L.)—It is a great pity that advantage was not taken of the capture of a female f. *dorippus* Klug to try to work out the genetics of this form. On the Kenya Coast, where *dorippus* is the prevalent form, it is dominant to *chrysippus,* and it would have been

interesting to see whether this is also the case in Delhi, where it is rare, or whether there are two different genes producing a similar phenotype. The species is not difficult to breed; a female confined in a large glass jar and supplied with a leaf or two of the food-plant [*Calotropis* spp. (Asclepiadaceae)] will lay freely if the jar is illuminated by a 60 watt bulb placed close to. The larvae can suffer severely from a Tachinid parasite, that lays its eggs in the tomentum on the underside of the *Calotropis* leaves, and it is essential to remove the tomentum from the leaves supplied for food.

Chilasa clytia (L.)—I do not think that it is correct to describe the large *dissimilis* L. form as a mimic of *D. limniace* (Cr.) and the small examples as mimics of *D. aglea* (Cr.). Mere size is of little or no importance in cases of mimicry, and it is far better to look on *dissimilis* as a mimic of a generalised blue and black *Danaus*.

Hypolimnas misippus (L.)—It seems strange that ff. *inaria* Cr. and *alcippoides* Btlr. should occur in view of the almost complete absence of their Danaid models.

Atella phalantha (Drury)—I do not think that *Barleria prionitis* (Acanthadaceae) can properly be recorded as a food-plant only on the strength of a female laying on it, unless larvae were also reared to maturity. The normal food-plants of *Atella* belong to the Flacourtiaceae, Celastraceae and Salicaceae.

I have recently watched a female of *Papilio demodocus* Esp. fly round and round an orange tree (Rutaceae), the food-plant, and then lay an egg on a small plant of *Euphorbia hirta* (Euphorbiaceae) growing at its base, an examination revealed a second and earlier laid egg on the same plant. Also, many years ago in Calcutta, I found eggs of *Danaus chrysippus* (L.) on a cultivated *Hibiscus* sp. (Malvaceae), on grasses (Gramineae) and on a strand of steel fencing wire, that were all mixed up in a plant of *Calotropis procera* (Asclepiadaceae), the proper food-plant.

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23. HAIRY CATERPILLARS ON BANANA IN MYSORE STATE

During July and August, 1972 the caterpillars of *Argina syringa* Cram., *Diacrisia obliqua* Walker and *Euproctis fraterna* Moore were observed feeding on banana in Hebbal and during the same period these insects were found feeding on the same host at Nanjanagud, Channapatna and Mandya. The young caterpillars fed gregariously on the under-surface